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COMMUNISM IN WESTERN EUROPE

ANNCR: VOA NEWS ANALYST EDWARD CONLEY DISCUSSES THE LATEST REMARKS BY SECRETARY OF STATE HENRY KISSINGER ON THE POSSIBILITY OF COMMUNIST PARTY PARTICIPATION IN WEST EUROPEAN GOVERNMENTS.

VOICE: IN THE SECRETARY OF STATE'S VIEW, THE POSSIBILITY OF COMMUNISM BLOSSOMING IN WESTERN EUROPE WOULD HAVE LONG TERM AND VERY SERIOUS CONSEQUENCES FOR THE ATLANTIC RELATIONSHIP. SPEAKING BEFORE A GATHERING OF AMERICAN NEWSPAPER EDITORS IN WASHINGTON, DOCTOR KISSINGER DELIVERED ONE OF HIS STRONGEST WARNINGS AGAINST THE POSSIBILITY OF COMMUNIST PARTY PARTICIPATION IN WEST EUROPEAN GOVERNMENTS.

THE IMMEDIATE QUESTION AT HAND WAS THE INCREASING STRENGTH OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF ITALY, A SITUATION WHICH A PANEL OF NON GOVERNMENTAL FOREIGN POLICY EXPERTS ADDRESSING THE SAME MEETING SAID MIGHT NOT BE AS SERIOUS AS THE ADMINISTRATION HAS PICTURED IT. ALL THREE FORMER JOHNSON ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS ADMITTED THAT AN INCREASING COMMUNIST ROLE IN WEST EUROPE IS NOT DESIRABLE. BUT THEY ADDED THAT THE ITALIAN PARTY'S LEADERS HAVE TAKEN AN AT LEAST OUTWARLY "INDEPENDENT FROM MOSCOW" STANCE, ARE EVIDENTLY WINNING THE SUPPORT OF A GROWING NUMBER OF ITALIAN PEOPLE, AND ULTIMATELY WILL HAVE TO BE DEALT WITH. THUS, WASHINGTON'S POLICY TOWARD THE ITALIAN SITUATION, AS THEY VIEW IT , SHOULD BE ONE OF CAUTIOUSLY MAKING THE BEST OF WHAT IS PROBABLY INEVITABLE.

THERE'S NO ARGUMENT OVER THE FACT OF LIFE THAT THE UNITED STATES WILL HAVE TO DEAL WITH REALITY IF, AS DOCTOR KISSINGER PUT IT, " ANY PEOPLE VOTE IN A WAY THAT WILL PRODUCE A COMMUNIST GOVERNMENT OR WITH MAJOR PARTICIPATION OF COMMUNISTS IN THAT GOVERNMENT." BUT THERE IS A MAJOR QUESTION AS TO HOW INDEPENDENT FROM MOSCOW SUCH A GOVERNMENT OR COALITION WOULD BE. IT IS THAT ISSUE THAT LED DOCTOR KISSINGER TO WARN AGAINST ACCEPTING THE POSSIBLE SPREAD OF POWERFUL, SELF PROCLAIMED " INDEPENDENT" COMMUNIST PARTIES IN WESTERN EUROPE.

THE SECRETARY TOLD THE NATION'S EDITORS" I BELIEVE THE ADVENT OF COMMUNISM IN MAJOR EUROPEAN COUNTRIES IS LIKELY TO PRODUCE A SEQUENCE OF EVENTS IN WHICH OTHER EUROPEAN COUNTRIES WILL ALSO BE TEMPTED TO MOVE IN THE SAME DIRECTION."

IT'S DOCTOR KISSINGER'S BELIEF THAT WHATEVER THEIR " INDEPENDENT" STANCE, COMMUNIST CONTROLLED GOVERNMENTS WOULD LIKELY CONDUCT A FOREIGN POLICY DIFFERENT IN CHARACTER FROM THAT NOW UNDERTAKEN BY PRO WEST EUROPEAN NATIONS. A SPREAD OF EVEN A NEW BREED OF COMMUNISM IN WESTERN EUROPE WOULD, IN THE SECRETARY'S WORDS: " HAVE LONG TERM AND VERY SERIOUS CONSEQUENCES... AND MARK A HISTORIC TURNING POINT IN ATLANTIC RELATIONSHIPS." IT IS FOR THESE REASONS THAT WASHINGTON IS WATCHING WITH CONCERN COMMUNIST ADVANCES IN WESTERN EUROPE.AND, IT IS FOR THESE REASONS THAT THE UNITED STATES CANNOT BE INDIFFERENT TO SUCH DEVELOPMENTS.

THE WARNINGS OF COMMUNIST ADVANCES IN WESTERN EUROPE ARE NOT ELECTION YEAR RHETORIC, NOR ARE THEY DIRECTED SOLELY

AT EVENTS OCCURING TODAY. AMERICAN FOREIGN POLICY AND THE DEFENSE OF THE WEST ARE BASED ON THE TRADITION OF FRIENDLY TIES BETWEEN AMERICA AND ITS ALLIES IN WESTERN EUROPE. THAT RELATIONSHIP COULD BE THREATENED OR SERIOUSLY DISRUPTED BY COMMUNIST PARTY INFLUENCE IN THE WEST. AND, AS THE SECRETARY OF STATE TOLD HIS AUDIENCE TUESDAY: IT IS HIS OBLIGATION TO MAKE CLEAR WHAT HE FEELS THE CONSEQUENCES WILL BE IF COMMUNISTS SHARE POWER IN MAJOR WESTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES.

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